

CRNAs: Ensuring Safe Anesthesia Care

WHY SURGEONS AND OTHER HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS RELY ON CRNAs

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses who collaborate with surgeons, obstetricians, dentists and other healthcare providers to deliver safe, high-quality and cost-effective anesthesia care to patients in virtually every healthcare setting.

Access to Care



CRNAs practice in **all 50 states** and in the military, safely providing more than 50 million anesthetics each year.

Patient Safety



National studies confirm that CRNAs are integral to high-value anesthesia care delivery where quality and safety are emphasized.*



Anesthesia care is **nearly 50x safer** than it was in the 1980s.**

This is due to **advancements in monitoring** technology, anesthetic drugs, provider education, and standards of care.

Risk Management



CRNAs are **educated, trained and experienced** in providing anesthesia care for complicated medical procedures and handling emergency situations.



As licensed professionals, CRNAs are responsible and accountable for decisions made and actions taken in their professional practice.



Case law shows that surgeons and other healthcare providers face no increase in liability when working with a CRNA versus a physician anesthesiologist.

For a surgeon (or other healthcare provider) to be liable for the acts of an anesthesia professional, the surgeon must control the actions of the CRNA or anesthesiologist and not merely supervise or direct them.



Courts apply the same standard to judge whether a surgeon is liable for the acts of a CRNA or an anesthesiologist.

On a nationwide basis, the average 2020 malpractice liability insurance premium for self-employed CRNAs was **36 percent less than it was in 1988**. When trended for inflation through 2020, **the reduction in premium is 71 percent**.



Cost Savings

Healthcare facilities that hire anesthesiologists to supervise CRNAs in an effort to manage risk may more than triple the costs of anesthesia delivery without improving patient outcomes, lowering risk or reducing liability coverage costs.



*RTI

**Institute of Medicine



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CRNAs

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists

Are the Most **VERSATILE**
and **COST-EFFECTIVE**
ANESTHESIA PROVIDERS



Cost Effectiveness of Anesthesia Models

**Autonomous/CRNAs
Collaborating with
Surgeons**



12

Staffing Cost²

2.00M

**CRNAs
Collaborating with
Anesthesiologists**



12

1

Staffing Cost²

2.40M

**Physician
Anesthesiologist Only**



12

Staffing Cost²

5.04M

**Anesthesia Care
Team**

(3:1 Ratio)



12

4

Staffing Cost²

3.68M

- CRNAs are qualified to work in any practice setting/model
- CRNAs are not required to practice under a physician anesthesiologist; by law, CRNAs can work independently of OR together with physician anesthesiologists
- CRNAs have a proven safety record
- CRNAs in Anesthesia Care Team Model ensure **NO LOSS IN REVENUE, NO RISK OF FRAUD**, no delays in delivery of care even when there is a supervision lapse (up to 70%³ of the time) as long as QZ billing is utilized
- In such cases, the facility simply bills exclusive of the anesthesiologist for the procedure (QZ vs. medical direction). The QZ modifier is exclusive to CRNAs

¹ Physician anesthesiologist

² Staffing costs are based on salary only. The median CRNA salary (\$166,540) was taken from the 2018 AANA Compensation and Benefits Survey. Salary costs for physician anesthesiologists are based on the 75th pctl salary (\$420,284) according to HR Reported data as of March 29, 2018 from Salary.com

³ Epstein R, Dexter F. (2012). Influence of supervision ratios by anesthesiologist on first case starts and critical portions of anesthetics. Anesthesiology, 116(3):683-691.



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ANESTHESIA AND THE CHANGING HEALTHCARE LANDSCAPE: CRNAs' Valuable Role

As the U.S. patient population ages and becomes more diversified, **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs)** play a vital role in ensuring access to safe, cost-effective anesthesia care for all Americans.



WHO ARE CRNAs?

CRNAs are highly educated anesthesia experts who provide **EVERY TYPE OF ANESTHESIA, FOR PATIENTS OF ALL AGES, FOR ANY KIND OF PROCEDURE, AND IN EVERY HEALTHCARE SETTING** where anesthesia is required.



-  General anesthesia
-  Regional anesthesia
-  Sedation
-  Pain management

CRNAs ARE SAFE

Anesthesia is **50 TIMES** safer today than in the 1980s.
National Academy of Medicine

There is a **0%** difference in safety between CRNAs and anesthesiologists.
Research Triangle Institute



CRNAs ARE COST EFFECTIVE

Research shows that CRNAs are the most cost-effective anesthesia providers with an exceptional safety record.

<p>25% More Expensive anesthesiologist directing 4 CRNAs</p> 	<p>BEST VALUE CRNA as sole anesthesia provider</p> 	<p>110% More Expensive anesthesiologist directing 1 CRNA</p> 
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CRNAs IMPROVE ACCESS TO CARE

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS rely on CRNAs for their anesthesia care, especially:



- 
Expectant Mothers
- 
Veterans
- 
Seniors
- 
Rural Communities

CRNAs ARE TEAM PLAYERS

Like all anesthesia professionals, CRNAs collaborate with other members of a patient's healthcare team:

**surgeons | obstetricians | endoscopists | podiatrists
pain specialists | other qualified healthcare providers**



CRNA Education and Training

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are highly educated, advanced practice registered nurses who deliver anesthesia to patients in exactly the same ways, for the same types of procedures and just as safely as anesthesiologists.

CRNAs have a minimum of 7 to 8^{1/2} years of education and training specific to nursing and anesthesiology before they are licensed to practice anesthesia.



Baccalaureate prepared RN

Average
2.9 Years

Critical care nursing experience prior to entering nurse anesthesia program¹

24 – 42
Months

Classroom and clinical education and training



Master's or Doctoral Degree from a COA-accredited nurse anesthesia educational program²

By 2025, all anesthesia program graduates will earn doctoral degrees

Nurse anesthetists obtain an average of

9,369
Clinical
Hours



of training prior to becoming a CRNA.

Constant Learners



CRNAs must pass a **National Certification Examination** for entry into practice and be recertified every 4 years so they are current on anesthesia techniques and technologies.

They must also pass a Continued Professional Certification exam every 8 years. Anesthesiologists are recertified every 10 years.



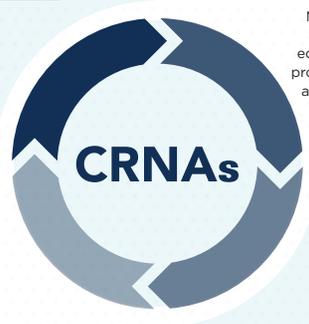
Minimum **60 hours** of approved continuing education and **40 hours** professional development activities every 4 years



Documentation of substantial anesthesia practice



Maintenance of current state licensure



CRNAs are qualified to administer **every type of anesthesia in any healthcare setting**, including pain management for acute or chronic pain.



Manage difficult cases



Use advanced monitoring equipment

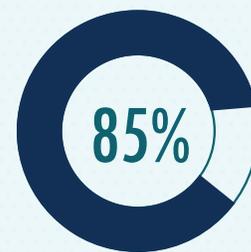


Interpret diagnostic information



Respond appropriately in any emergency situation

Research shows that CRNAs are



Less costly to educate and train than anesthesiologists.³

As the demand for healthcare continues to grow, increasing the number of CRNAs will be key to containing costs while maintaining quality care.

¹ CRNAs are the only anesthesia professionals with this level of critical care experience prior to entering an educational program.

² Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs

³ Update of Cost Effectiveness of Anesthesia Providers, Lewin Group Publications, May 2016

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S.C.A.N.A.
South Carolina Association of
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